

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
JUNE 13, 2007
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance: Gail Brown (Chairman), Mary E. Brower (Vice Chairman), Phyllis Snyder (Member), Ann Keen (Member), Elaine Preston (Secretary), Lynn Coine (Member), Roy Kolb (Planning Commission Liaison) absent

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

M. Brower motioned to accept the minutes of May 23, 2007 with spelling and grammar corrections only.

P. Snyder seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

L. Tietjen, 131 Maack Road (Maack Residential)

L. Tietjen asked how he may upgrade his property on the National Register of Historic Places from 'eligible' to 'listed'. G. Brown noted he should proceed as directed by the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC). Mr. Tietjen is concerned because all correspondence to and from the PHMC, the township, and Gambone Development Company representatives seems to indicate the Maack Residential Property is owned by Gambone Development Company. He wants to make sure that the Township, PHMC, and all participating parties understand that the property known as Maack Residential is a private property owned by L. Tietjen. Mr. Tietjen asked how the township can make decisions affecting a private property without consulting the property owner. G. Brown suggested Mr. Tietjen attend the June 18, 2007, Board of Supervisors meeting and address his questions to the Board.

A discussion ensued about the stone wall. Mr. Teitjen had noted as recorded in previous Historical Commission minutes, that the removal of the stone wall may affect his properties eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Teitjen had not received any correspondence from the PHMC addressing the issue. G. Brown said she would deliver a copy of the letter to Mr. Tietjen. Mr. Teitjen is to also be given information to contact the PHMC. G. Brown also provided L. Teitjen with information on a 'Historic Home Buyer and Cultural Show' Saturday, June 15, 2007 at the

Montgomery County Community College in Pottstown. This show should be beneficial to owners of historic properties.

Subdivision and Land Development

Painter Tract

Mr. Scott Emerson with Bentley Communities was in attendance representing the Painter Tract.

Mr. Emerson noted that the PHMC noted no historic structures on the tract. He is to send a copy of the PHMC letter to the Historical Commission.

The Historical Commission noted two (2) adjacent historical resources as noted on Figure 3.10 of the Township Comprehensive Plan. The Historical Commission will be monitoring buffering of Tax Parcel #18-04-0043.1 and is concerned with storm water runoff on Tax Parcel #18-04-0110.1A. It was noted the Planning Commission does an effective review of storm water issues.

E. Preston, member and nearby resident, voiced concerns about all the traffic that will be entering Ellis Woods Road just above an already dangerous intersection at E. Cedarville and Ellis Woods Road.

L. Coine moved to have the above two (2) historic resources identified on the plans in accordance with SALDO requirements and provide buffering of the historic resources.

P. Snyder seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Bealer Subdivision

The Historical Commission discussed the thought of asking the Bealers if they could share or have copies made of family history and the property history and/or photographs to be donated to the Historical Commission files. (The house is to be demolished and the barn rehabilitated as a residence.)

M. Brower motioned we ask the Bealer Family for facsimile or original documents and photographs from the Bealer Family for the Historical Commission files.

P. Snyder seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Green Acres

Green Acres has requested a waiver for sidewalks on Bethel Church Road. The historic barn on the property is very close to the existing road. With required widening of the road, it would only allow approximately one and one-half feet for the sidewalk. This

width is significantly less than the width required by the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). The Planning Commission has recommended the waiver.

M. Brower moved to endorse the Planning Commission recommended waiver as both road widening and a sidewalk may jeopardize the integrity of a historical resource.

A. Keen seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Strutynski Development

G. Brown reported that the Board of Supervisors has denied the Strutynski Development.

Discussion Items

The Historical Commission reviewed the calendars for the 2008 year and discussed the price that should be charged for each calendar.

P. Snyder motioned to charge \$7.00 per calendar.

L. Coine seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously carried.

M. Brower opened the discussion for advertisement of the calendars. Zap Digital, Inc. has proposed to M. Brower that they could print advertisements for the calendars. The price would be \$75.00 to \$100.00 for 25 posters. G. Brown stated we had seen the posters printed by Zap Digital, Inc. for the 'Historic Home Buyer and Cultural Show' and they were very nicely done. As this price was not included in the original bid, the Historical Commission would have to rebid for professionally printed advertising posters and resubmit to the Board of Supervisors for approval. This would significantly delay sales of the calendars. The options are for the Historical Commission to develop and print the advertising posters as we have done in the past. G. Brown asked P. Snyder if she could draft a calendar advertisement to be presented to the Historical Commission for discussion and review at the next scheduled meeting. The Historical Commission members further discussed possible locations to post the calendar advertisements.

L. Coine and E. Preston are going to write a letter to be presented to owners of all prospective locations for posting of the calendar advertisement.

Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) Guest Speaker Program

G. Brown requested all members review the Chester County Historical Society list of offered "Guest Speaker" programs and consider which program we would like to

sponsor. Commission members proposed mid-October for the presentation date. We will re-open this discussion next meeting. G. Brown to schedule a meeting with the interim Township Manager to discuss how we can address the parking issue if this presentation is at the township building.

E. Preston was reminded that she is to send a letter to the Chester County Historical Preservation Network (CCHPN) to inform them that we are still not getting our newsletters. A. Keen and M. Brower spoke up that they have been receiving the newsletters. P Snyder, Lynn Coine, E. Preston, and G. Brown are not receiving the newsletters.

Eagle Scout Projects

Mr. Andrew Hoffman, after reviewing information he received from the Chester County Historical Society in reference to Ellis Woods Memorial Cemetery, has requested an alternate location for the 'flag incinerator' he is proposing for his Eagle Scout project. Andrew read an early newspaper article to the Board of Supervisors and based on its content has requested an alternate location (Towpath Park or the Township Building grounds) for his project. Mr. Atlee Rinehart, Board of Supervisors, Chairman, suggested he present his proposal to the township Parks and Recreation Committee.

Mr. William Dougherty has requested and been forwarded information on the Schuylkill Canal Company and the towpath. William is proposing as his Eagle Scout project, markers along the towpath (from Towpath Park) containing information and photographs addressing the historical and economical impact of the canal on the region.

Both of these young men have contacted various organizations and conducted extensive historical research on their projects. We congratulate them on their efforts.

Chester County Village Tours

G. Brown contacted sponsors of the Town Tours and Village Walks for Nantmeal Village, Kimberton Valley Dell, Historic Yellow Springs, and the Village of Pughtown and offered one or two volunteers to assist, if needed. East Nantmeal needs help on July 26, 2007 and requested we attend their meeting the third Wednesday of the month. E. Preston volunteered to attend. Historic Yellow Springs and Kimberton Valley Dell have responded and will take the offer before their members for consideration.

Zoning Workshop Meeting, June 11, 2007

G. Brown and E. Preston were in attendance representing the Historical Commission.

The Supervisors reminded G. Brown that we were to have the Historical Resource Map completed by December 2006 and it is not finished. G. Brown stated the Historical Commission Members have been continuously working on this project. The Historical Resource Survey complete and documented in the early 1980's was recorded by owner's name. Most of these properties have changed ownership numerous times since that date. Mr. Rinehart suggested we assign long time residents of the township to conduct this effort. G. Brown responded, Mrs. Ann Keen and Mrs. Phyllis Snyder, both long time residents are working on this project. They have been meeting one or two times a week working on this effort. Also, most roads were listed as rural routes and house numbers have changed. Many owners were not resident owners. This is an extensive effort.

As we have not currently mapped and identified our historic resources as Class I, II, and III, Mr. Wayne Grafton, Grafton Associates, suggested Article XII be set aside until such time mapping is completed. It was also noted it could take years to complete resident notification and acceptance/rejection of classifications. Mr. R. Preston stated we could go ahead with review of Article XII. The Article will state the requirements and these requirements would go into effect when mapping, classification, and notification are complete. G. Brown stated these requirements have been in effect since 1994. The current Historical Commission has been working on the mapping continuously since September 2006.

G. Brown, Chairman, stated as we have completed the 2008 Historic Calendar effort, we will concentrate on the mapping.

Adjournment

E. Preston motioned to adjourn the meeting.

L. Coine seconded the motions.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine C. Preston
Secretary
East Coventry Township Historical Commission